

CLAIMS

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1. In an image reproduction system, a method for generating a job ticket for use in connection with a print job, said method comprising the steps of:
- generating a base job ticket associated with said print job;
- generating a shadow job ticket associated with said print job; and
- assembling a composite job ticket from said base job ticket and said shadow job ticket, said composite job ticket being associated with said print job for use in connection with said print job.
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of generating a base job ticket comprises the step of providing a base data field and said step of generating a shadow job ticket comprises the step of providing a shadow data field corresponding to said base data field, said shadow data field having a first printing instruction encoded thereon.
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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of assembling said composite job ticket comprises the step of combining said shadow job ticket and said base job ticket if said shadow ticket is in said active state.
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5. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state.
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6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of assembling a composite job ticket comprises the step of providing, on said composite job ticket, a composite data field corresponding to said base data field.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of assembling a composite job ticket further comprises the step of encoding, in said composite data field, a second printing instruction to be used for printing said print job, said second printing instruction being selected to be said first printing instruction if said shadow ticket is in its active state.

8. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of encoding a third printing instruction in said base data field, and wherein said step of assembling said composite job ticket further comprises the steps of

determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state, and

selecting said second printing instruction to be said third printing instruction if said shadow ticket is not in said active state.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of assembling said composite job ticket comprises the steps of:

retrieving said base job ticket and said print job from a first storage element, and

retrieving said shadow job ticket from a second storage element.

10. In a document reproduction system, a method for selecting a printing instruction to be used for printing a print job, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a base job ticket identifying said print job and having a base data field;

providing a shadow job ticket identifying said print job and having a shadow data field corresponding to said base data field, said shadow data field having a first printing instruction encoded therein;

determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state; and

assembling a composite job ticket having a composite data field corresponding to said base data field, said composite data field having, encoded therein, a second printing instruction to be used for printing said print job, said second printing instruction being selected to be said first printing instruction if said shadow ticket is in its active state.

11. A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon software for generating a job ticket for use in connection with a print job, said software comprising instructions for executing the steps of:

generating a base job ticket associated with said print job;

generating a shadow job ticket associated with said print job; and

assembling a composite job ticket from said base job ticket and said shadow job ticket, said composite job ticket being associated with said print job for use in connection with said print job.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said instructions for executing the step of generating a base job ticket comprise instructions for executing the step of providing a base data field and said instructions for executing the step of generating a shadow job ticket comprise instructions for executing the step of providing a shadow data field corresponding to said base data field, said shadow data field having a first printing instruction encoded thereon.

13. The computer-readable medium claim 11 wherein said software further comprises instructions for executing the step of determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state.

14. The computer-readable medium claim 13 wherein said instructions for executing the step of assembling said composite ticket comprise instructions for executing the step of combining said shadow job ticket and said base job ticket if said shadow ticket is in said active state.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said software further comprises instructions for executing the step of determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state.

16. The computer-readable medium claim 14 wherein said instructions for executing the step of assembling a composite job ticket comprise instructions for executing the step of providing, on said composite job ticket, a composite data field corresponding to said base data field.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein said instructions for executing the step of assembling a composite job ticket further comprise instructions for executing the step of encoding, in said composite data field, a second printing instruction to be used for printing said print job, said second printing instruction being selected to be said first printing instruction if said shadow ticket is in its active state.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein

said software further comprises instructions for executing the step of encoding a third printing instruction in said base data field, and

said instructions for executing the step of assembling said composite job ticket further comprise instructions for executing the steps of:

determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state; and

selecting said second printing instruction to be said third printing instruction if said shadow ticket is not in said active state.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said instructions for executing the step of assembling said composite job ticket comprise instructions for executing the steps of:

retrieving said base job ticket and said print job from a first storage element; and

retrieving said shadow job ticket from a second storage element.

20. An image reproduction system for generating printed output from a print job, said system comprising:

an image input stage for generating a print job having an associated base job ticket and an associated shadow job ticket;

a control stage in communication with said image input stage for receiving said print job from said image input stage and generating therefrom a transformed print job;

a ticket management process, in communication with said control stage, for assembling a composite job ticket from said base job ticket and said shadow job ticket, said composite job ticket being associated with said print job for use in connection with said print job; and

5 an image output stage in communication with said control stage for receiving said transformed print job and said composite job ticket and generating printed output therefrom.

10 **21.** The system of claim **20** wherein said base job ticket comprises a base data field and said shadow job ticket comprises a shadow data field corresponding to said base data field, said shadow data field having a first printing instruction encoded thereon.

15 **22.** The system of claim **20** wherein said shadow job ticket is switchable between an active state and an inactive state and said ticket management process further includes a ticket inspection process for determining whether said shadow ticket is in said active state.

20 **23.** The system of claim **22** wherein said ticket management process comprises a ticket composition process for combining said shadow job ticket and said base job ticket if said shadow ticket is in said active state.

24. The system of claim **21** wherein said shadow job ticket is switchable between an active state and an inactive state and said ticket management process further includes a ticket inspection process for determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state.

25 **25.** The system of claim **24** wherein said ticket management process comprises a ticket composition process for providing, on said composite job ticket, a composite data field corresponding to said base data field.

30 **26.** The system of claim **25** wherein said ticket composition process comprises an instruction encoding process for encoding, in said composite data field, a second printing instruction to be used for printing said print job, said second printing instruction being selected to be said first printing instruction if said shadow ticket is in its active state.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein

said image input stage comprises an image encoding process for encoding a third printing instruction on said base data field, and

said ticket management process comprises:

5 a ticket inspection process for determining whether said shadow ticket is in an active state; and

a ticket composition process for selecting said second printing instruction to be said third printing instruction if said shadow ticket is not in said active state.

10 28. The system of claim 20 wherein said control stage further comprises a shadow ticket cache for storing a shadow job ticket received separately from said base job ticket.

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